



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date Agreed:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2025
Future review date:	September 2027
Type of Policy:	School Non- Statutory Policy

Revision Number	Date Issued	Prepared by	Approved	Personalised by school	Comments
1	Sep 21	BB	LGB	VH	Updated to DCAT branding
2	Sep 23	BD		N/A	Review and update of policy
3	Sep 25	BD			Review and update of policy
4	Sep 27	BD			

Contents

Introduction	3
1. Collective Worship Timetable.....	4
2. Class Led Worship	4
3. Whole School Worship.....	4
4. Our Worship Ethos	4
5. Foundation Stage	5
6. Key Stage 1 and 2	5
7. Prayer	5
8. Worship Areas.....	6
9. School Hall.....	6
10. Resources / Reference Files for Staff.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
11. Our Christian Values	7
12. Monitoring and Assessing Worship	7
APPENDIX I – Grade Descriptors: Collective Worship	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Introduction

Our **vision** for our Trust is we exist to:

Help every child achieve their God-given potential

Our **aims** are clear. We aim to be a Trust in which:

Developing the whole child means pupils achieve and maximise their potential

Continued development of staff is valued and improves education for young people

All schools are improving and perform above national expectations

The distinct Christian identity of each academy develops and is celebrated

Our work as a Trust is underpinned by shared **values**. They are taken from the Church of England's vision for Education and guide the work of Trust Centre team. They are:

Aspiration I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4 vs 13).

Wisdom Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. (Proverbs 19 vs 20)

Respect So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you. (Matthew 7 vs 12)

Our vision of helping every child achieve their God-given potential is aligned with the Church of England's vision for education and is underpinned by the Bible verse from John: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Our Vision

Learning as a family in Jesus, through Love, Hope and Forgiveness.

'With God all things are possible.' **Matthew 19:26**

Our Purpose: To let each child know they are loved and to help them fulfil their God given potential.

Our Aim: To provide an engaging, relevant education within a Christian environment, where everyone flourishes academically, socially, physically, morally, emotionally and spiritually.

Our Values

Our Christian Values are: **LOVE, HOPE and FORGIVENESS.**

*'A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another just as I have **loved** you, you also are to **love** one another.'* **John 13:34**

*'May the God of **hope** fill you with all the joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.'* **Romans 15:13**

*'Be compassionate and kind to one another, **forgiving** each other, just as in Christ, God **forgave** you.'* **Ephesians 4:3**

1. Collective Worship Timetable

Monday	Whole School Worship - led by Headteacher or senior leader
Tuesday	Whole School Sign and Sing
Wednesday	Class/Year group Worship
Thursday	Whole School Worship – led by Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Staff member, Vicar or Visitor
Friday	Awards Worship: Class Cup and celebrations

2. Class Led Worship

Each academic year, every class takes a turn in preparing and leading whole school Worship. This is a very special occasion in which the children explore developing the Worship themes in imaginative and thoughtful ways. Others love watching their peers or siblings leading Worship. Parents of children leading Worship are invited to attend and we enjoy welcoming them to be part of our school community as it enhances the positive relationship we have with parents and allows us to worship together.

3. Whole School Worship

Twice a week, we meet as a whole school for worship in the hall. Several times a year, we worship together in St. James' church, usually led by Reverend Rachel or the headteacher or deputy.

We will also attend special services in church, to which parents are often invited, for:

- Harvest Festival
- Advent
- Easter
- Eucharist services
- Leavers' service

Our weekly Sign and Sing Tuesday worship is lively and inclusive, encouraging children to be vocally and physically expressive in worship. We seek to use a range of modern and traditional songs, including signs, action and dance as well as more reflective and prayerful songs.

4. Our Worship Ethos

- Worship at St. James' is inclusive and invitational to all. We aim to enable all of our community to participate in acts of worship irrespective of personal belief. It is a time of reflection and participation for all.
- Worship at St. James' is designed to be inspirational and enable adults and children to flourish spiritually by promoting excitement and awe alongside reflection.
- Worship at St. James' should impact on our lives at school and in our community and

we aim for a time of reflection at each worship so that we can each consider individually how we can create a better world for all.

- Children are expected to approach worship respectfully and reverently, entering the hall in silence, whilst listening to music. There is always a reflective question for children to consider as they enter the hall.
- The lighting of the school candle signifies the start of worship and children are reminded of the significance of a lit candle that represents Jesus as the Light of the World.
- The children are actively involved in preparing worship, with Worship Monitors involved in our collective worship on a rotational basis.
- Parents are invited and encouraged to join children, staff and governors, for a number of “whole school” worships. Parents are welcome to attend Monday whole school worships as well.
- On Thursdays, we are often led in worship by clergy from local Churches and Christian Speakers and staff members who bring a fresh and inspiring approach with a strong emphasis on Christian morals and Biblical teachings.
- Themes that have been introduced within Monday’s Worship are explored further in follow- up sessions with the children throughout the week in class Worship.

5. Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in Reception join in with whole school worships within the first few weeks of starting school. Weekly class worships (Wednesday) are led by the teachers who relate the themes that have been introduced within Monday’s Worship are explored further. There is also our school values of Love, Hope and Forgiveness, Christian calendar festival themes and Bible stories which link to the Church Year – ideas and relevant dates, are given out to year groups each half term.

6. Key Stage 1 and 2

Weekly class worships, which take place on Wednesday, are led by the class teacher and involve class members who choose to prepare and lead an aspect of worship. Each class uses their half term list of Worship themes to plan and prepare the content of class worship which is linked to the Worship theme of the week or the Church Year, allowing the children to share their personal experiences linked to the theme.

7. Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of school life. During RE lessons and Class Worship the children are taught that prayer is simply ‘talking to God’ and are encouraged, from the time they begin school, to say and write their own prayers. We instil the understanding that prayer is something that they can do at all times of the day, not just at school. We explain that it is a way of life and will add strength to the activities they complete daily, knowing that they can have a conversation with God at any time and that he is there to listen and guide. We have

our own Opening and Closing candle prayers which are said at the start and close of every Whole school Worship.

Each class has a set of prayers, which are displayed in the worship area of the classroom. These prayers have been written by class members and they are used regularly alongside children's own extempore prayers.

Children are encouraged to 'say' their own prayers from the heart, as well as reading prayers from the selection written at the start of the academic year. They say 'End of the Day' prayers at home time. Once again, children often volunteer to 'say' their own prayers which include reflecting on the day in school and thanking God for the enjoyable day and opportunities that we have had.

We also have a prayer board where children are encouraged to place a post it prayer for a situation that they may wish to pray for.

8. Worship Areas

In each classroom, there is a worship area and display board, which provides a focal point for Christian worship. Worship displays show our school Christian Values of Love, Hope and Forgiveness with relevant Bible quotes and have clear signs to show our weekly themes. They also have Bibles, class prayer books (prayers written by the children) and a candle as well as a copy of The Lord's Prayer which is often said and "signed" during Whole School Worship. We encourage children to access and use these areas both for prayers and as areas for quiet reflection and inspiration.

Our School Christian Vision statement is displayed in every classroom.

9. School Hall

Worship in the hall is a special time when the St. James' family gather together. A worship area contains, an open Bible, a candle and a cross displayed and used each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday when we gather together as a whole school to Worship. The candle is one which the previous Year 6 will have received from a special Leaver's Service at Christchurch Priory. It is part of the legacy from the leaving Year 6.

There is a prominently displayed School Prayer Board in the children's entrance where children regularly share their prayer requests on a post it note/ paper and add it to the board. Some children choose to name their prayers, others remain anonymous. Prayers can be about anything they wish to thank God for and also include prayer requests. The board also displays Biblical quotes relating to prayer, enabling children to read Bible verses and know the location of them in the Bible.

10. Our Christian Values

Our Christian Values are LOVE, HOPE and FORGIVENESS.

Our Christian Values are very important to us. They are embedded in everything we do. They are part of our learning, our Worships, and in our thoughts as we journey through each day together. They are displayed throughout the school and can be seen in the way the children and staff interact with each other and in the way we all care for one another.

Children are encouraged to live the Christian values both at home and at school and through their interactions with the local community.

Being part of the Church of England 'Difference' project has further enabled us to celebrate our differences and explore our feelings about who we are and where we fit in God's family in Christ.

11. Monitoring and Assessing Worship

The Headteacher co ordinates worship and regularly asks staff and children for their views on Worship, their understanding and impact and ways in which we can improve them.

Actions are created as a result of feedback. Our worship monitors and Academy Council are also asked their opinions regularly about this aspect of the RE and Worship.

Governors provide feedback when attending worship through a set online form. Our goal is to further develop the role of children in leading and planning worship for both class and whole school worships and to have greater involvement in leading the acts of worship in school and church.

